



**WisDOT/People First Wisconsin Meeting
Saturday, August 28, 2004, 1:00-2:15pm**

People in attendance

Bobbi Retzlaff, WisDOT, BOP

People First Wisconsin Board Members (approximately 25 individuals)

1. Overview of WisDOT's meeting purpose and WisDOT's long-range plan, *Connections 2030*, by WisDOT staff: The meeting began at 1:00. Bobbi Retzlaff, WisDOT, gave an overview of WisDOT's long-range plan *Connections 2030*. WisDOT is seeking input on transportation planning issues. *Connections 2030* is scheduled to be completed in 2006.
2. Gathering of input from People First WI: Discussion focused on the following issues:
 - a. Intercity Travel

Several individuals noted that there is either no or limited intercity bus service in Wisconsin. In areas that have intercity service, buses are often not equipped to accommodate individuals in wheelchairs. Oftentimes, family members or friends provide the needed transportation.

Others noted the difficulty of airline travel from smaller airports. For example, a person in a wheelchair cannot climb the steps to board a plane at airports with exterior gates.
 - b. Cost

The cost of fares – both taxi and bus – were identified as a barrier. In some areas, taxi fares are very costly for the shortest of trips. In many instances, disabled persons have low incomes. High fares result in their incomes being even lower.
 - c. Lack of convenience

Several individuals noted that taking specialized transit is not convenient. They often face delays in pickup times, or are given windows of time in which to be ready. Other individuals note they have to leave for work up to 1.5 hours early to either arrive on time or be able to take specialized transit. Others noted that they are forced to wait longer during school season because the transit system serves school children first. Finally, several noted that transit system operating time are limited, making it difficult/impossible for individuals with jobs that have either evening and/or weekend hours.
 - d. Requirements to use specialized transit

One social worker noted that one person has reverted to using a wheelchair so he can use specialized transit. However, he only uses the wheelchair for transit. At all other times he uses a walker. Others noted that they have been denied specialized transit because they are ambulatory.
 - e. Lack of service continuity

Several individuals stated the difficulties in trying to work around a transit system's boundaries. In some instances, a system will not cross a jurisdictional line. In other instances, a system may cross into another jurisdiction for drop-off, but will not cross for pick-up.